



# “One Person’s Trash...”

Your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling

Costa Mesa Sanitary District



(949) 645-8400  
www.cmsdca.gov

Winter 2015  
Quarterly Newsletter

## Organics recycling program kickoff delayed



The beginning of the new organics recycling program for Costa Mesa Sanitary District residents will be delayed due to the complex construction of the facility. Residents can expect the delivery of their organics carts between Monday, June 22, 2015, and Friday, August 14, 2015. The anaerobic digester under construction is state of the art

technology that will convert green waste and food scraps into renewable natural gas.

CMSD is the first agency in Southern California to implement a curbside organics recycling program that will accept food scraps. CR&R Incorporated, which owns and operates the state of the art facility, will provide the new program to residents. The District’s decision to provide an organics recycling program was in anticipation that the State of California will ban using green waste as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) for diversion credits. On September 28, 2014, Governor Brown signed AB 1594 into law which mandates that green waste used as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) at landfills will no longer receive diversion credits effective January 1, 2020. State law requires local agencies to divert 50% of solid waste away from landfills. When ADC is no longer considered diversion, many agencies will not meet the 50% mandate and, thus, will need to find other means for disposing of their green waste. CMSD and CR&R officials believe that the District will be able to divert close to 75% of its solid waste away from landfills as a result of the organics recycling program.

Because of the facility construction delay, delivery of the new organics carts to residents has been moved to later in the year. Roll-out of the new organics carts will begin on June 22 and conclude on August 14. (Refer to map on page 3 for the cart delivery schedule.)

To learn more about the District’s Organics Recycling Program, please visit the Organics Recycling webpage on the District’s website, [www.cmsdca.gov](http://www.cmsdca.gov).

## Green-up your holiday cleanup

Before you know it, New Year’s Day will be past, the presents will be tucked away, and the tree will be dried out, littering the floor with needles. It’s time to clean up from the holidays, but where do you start? Here are some suggestions to help “green-up” your holiday cleanup!

### Holiday Trees and Greenery

We only use our holiday trees for a few weeks out of the year, but recycling or reusing them can be a great way to limit your holiday waste. CMSD will collect Christmas trees from Monday, December 29, 2014, through Friday, January 16, 2015. Place your bare, real Christmas tree on the ground next to your collection containers for pick up on your regular trash day. Please remove all tinsel, ornaments, and lights, as well as the stand. All trees taller than 6 feet must be cut in half to be eligible for this special collection. The trees will be chipped and turned into mulch, which will be used locally and in other parts of California. Mulch helps keep moisture and nutrients in the soil.

### Electronics

More than likely, someone in your household got some new electronics. Perhaps it was a new TV, computer, tablet, e-reader, iPod/MP3 player, game system, or smartphone. If those new electronics replaced something you already owned and now no longer need, don’t throw your old electronics into your trash! All electronics, no matter how small, contain chemicals and metals that can be harmful to the environment when mixed with household trash. Plus, these metals and other components can be used to create new electronics. Sell or donate usable and unwanted electronics. No takers? Recycle them, along with any electronics that no longer work.

Electronics are accepted for recycling at the Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. There are four HHWCC drop-offs that are open year-round. They are located in Anaheim, Huntington Beach, Irvine, and San Juan Capistrano.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (closed on major holidays and during rainy weather). For details, visit [www.oclandfills.com](http://www.oclandfills.com) or call (714) 834-6752.

### Bulky Waste

Did you get some new furniture, a mattress and box springs, a washer or stove, or maybe a rug for the holidays? If those spiffy, new items replaced something old, you probably have some bulky waste. Because these items won’t fit in the regular trucks and usually require two people to lift, we ask that you call to schedule a bulky-item pickup. To schedule, please call CR&R Customer Service at (949) 646-4617, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. Residents must provide a detailed list of items to be collected. Please note, drivers will not collect any items not specified in advance.

Residents who use dumpsters at their property are not eligible for this program. However, before you dispose of usable items, consider donating them to local charities. You can receive a receipt for tax purposes, assist those less fortunate, and practice “Reuse & Reduce.”

### Old Toys and Games

Large household items aren’t the only things you can donate. The holidays always bring loads of new games and toys for the kids. As you’re making room on shelves and in closets, clean out old toys, clothes, and games and fill a “donation” box. Many thrift shops, organizations, and houses of worship, as well as Goodwill, The Salvation Army, Vietnam Veterans of America, Assistance League, and Ticktock, accept gently used clothes, books, games, and toys. In addition, Freecycle is an Internet bulletin board where you can give away or obtain items for free. For locations and additional details, visit the District website, [www.cmsdca.gov](http://www.cmsdca.gov), and choose “Thrift Stores and Freecycle” from the “Programs” drop-down menu.



### Batteries

Sometimes, it seems that every present we receive requires batteries. One of the best ways to reduce battery waste is to buy

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# Reminder: Keep Trash Containers Out of Public View

Empty trash containers can create problems. When they are left at the curb, they can block traffic, creating hazards for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. When empty containers are left out, thieves may assume that no one is home. To minimize these risks and create a tidy community, trash containers need to be stowed away out of public view when not in use.

The Costa Mesa Sanitary District ordinance reads as follows:

## Section 7.01.080. Removal of Trash Containers.

(a) Residential trash containers placed in the street shall be removed from the curb by midnight the day of trash collection and shall be stored in the rear or side yard of the property so as to be out of view from the street. Trash containers placed in the alley for collection shall be removed from the alley by midnight the day of trash collection and shall be stored so as to be out of the public alley, completely on private property, and out of view from the public street.

(b) A hardship exception or variance may be obtained by any person whose property is uniquely situated to not allow container removal from the public alley or who has a personal hardship not allowing such storage. A hardship waiver form must be completed explaining the reason(s) for a hardship. Such a hardship exception or variance shall be approved in a letter or other memorialization from the General Manager or designee. Such memorialization shall list the reasons and may be limited in time. (Ord. 27, 1997) (Ord. 93, 2012)

If you have questions or require assistance finding an appropriate location to store your trash containers out of public view, please contact the CMSD at (949) 645-8400. If you would like to report trash containers stored in public view, please download the District's smartphone app by typing in "GoCMSD" at the Google Play Store. GoCMSD is free to download on your smartphone.

# INKED



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Do you have a printer? Then you know that ink isn't cheap. New cartridges can range from \$20 to \$300 each, depending on the make and model of your printer. According to Evolve Recycling, more than 70 million laser cartridges and over 300 million inkjet cartridges are sold in the U.S. each year. Not surprisingly, the larger and more costly toner cartridges are far more likely to be recycled than cheaper, smaller inkjet cartridges. InfoTrends found that in 2011, 84% of laser toner cartridges were recycled, but only 23% of inkjet cartridges. What are you doing with your cartridges?

Both laser toner and inkjet cartridges are easy to recycle through printer manufacturers, office supply stores, or cartridge remanufacturers, many of which buy empties from organizations and businesses. Once collected, the cartridges may be remanufactured, which means they are cleaned, inspected, refilled, and resold. Other cartridges are used for parts. The remainder are recycled or disposed at waste-to-energy facilities or landfills.

If you aren't already recycling your cartridges, start now:

- You can recycle cartridges with the manufacturer. Information on how to recycle is typically included with the new cartridge and is also available online.
- Office supply stores accept cartridges for recycling. Many of these stores give you a credit (or rewards dollars) for your empty cartridges.
- Many organizations recycle cartridges as a fundraiser. Check with organizations that you and your family like to support to see whether they currently accept cartridges for recycling.

When you purchase new ink or toner, consider buying remanufactured cartridges. When you do, you will save money on ink and toner and support a closed-loop recycling system!

# California says "no thanks" to plastic bags



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Recently, California became the first state to pass a single-use plastic bag ban. On September 30, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 270 (Padilla, de León, Lara). Governor Brown said, "This bill is a step in the right direction—it reduces the torrent of plastic polluting our beaches, parks, and even the vast ocean itself."

The ban on single-use plastic bags will take effect in stages. As of July 1, 2015, large grocery stores will no longer be allowed to provide single-use plastic bags. Stores can sell paper, reusable, and/or compostable bags for a minimum of 10¢. The charge is meant to encourage consumers to bring along their own bags and to ensure that customers who do not need bags aren't subsidizing the bags for those who do. On July 1, 2016, the ban will be expanded to include convenience stores, foodmarts, and liquor stores.

The bill also provides \$2 million for competitive loans to help create and retain jobs in California for the manufacture and recycling of plastic reusable grocery bags which use recycled content.

The statewide ban comes after 99 local bans, covering 128 cities and counties, were previously enacted. Single-use plastic bags had already been banned in the cities of Dana Point, Huntington Beach, and Laguna Beach, as well as in Los Angeles County, the City of Los Angeles, and many other Southern California cities. In the City of San Jose, where a 2012 ban on single-use bags affected all retailers, the City saw an 89% reduction of bag litter in the storm drain system, a 60% decrease in creeks and rivers, and a 59% reduction in streets and neighborhoods. Save Our Shores, a litter cleanup organization in Northern California, saw the number of bags drop from an average of 65 per weekly cleanup to six per cleanup after bans took effect in Santa Cruz County and three nearby cities.

In 2012, Californians took home about 13.1 billion single-use plastic bags.

# Could your workplace recycling program use a boost?

Expanding your workplace recycling program can improve employee morale. Employees who feel they can make an impact on social and environmental issues while on the job are twice as satisfied with work as those who don't.

Through the Recycling at Work program, Keep America Beautiful offers free tools and resources to help you develop a recycling action plan. The program is free and available online at [www.RecyclingatWork.org](http://www.RecyclingatWork.org). You'll find suggested employee activities, employee recognition certificates, customizable promotional materials, and more. When your business or institution pledges to increase recycling by 10% over the next two years, you will have access to discounted recycling bins, free webinars, and periodic updates on the program.

"Keep America Beautiful is dedicated to increasing recycling rates," said Brenda Pulley, KAB senior vice president of recycling.



"To make meaningful progress, we need to concentrate on recycling not just at home, but also at work, at school, and on the go."

Remember—recycling is mandatory for most businesses and multi-family properties in California. All businesses that produce 4 cubic yards or more of trash per week and multi-family properties of five units or more (such as apartment buildings) are required to recycle.

If you are ready to expand or improve your workplace recycling program, contact your trash hauler for a consultation.

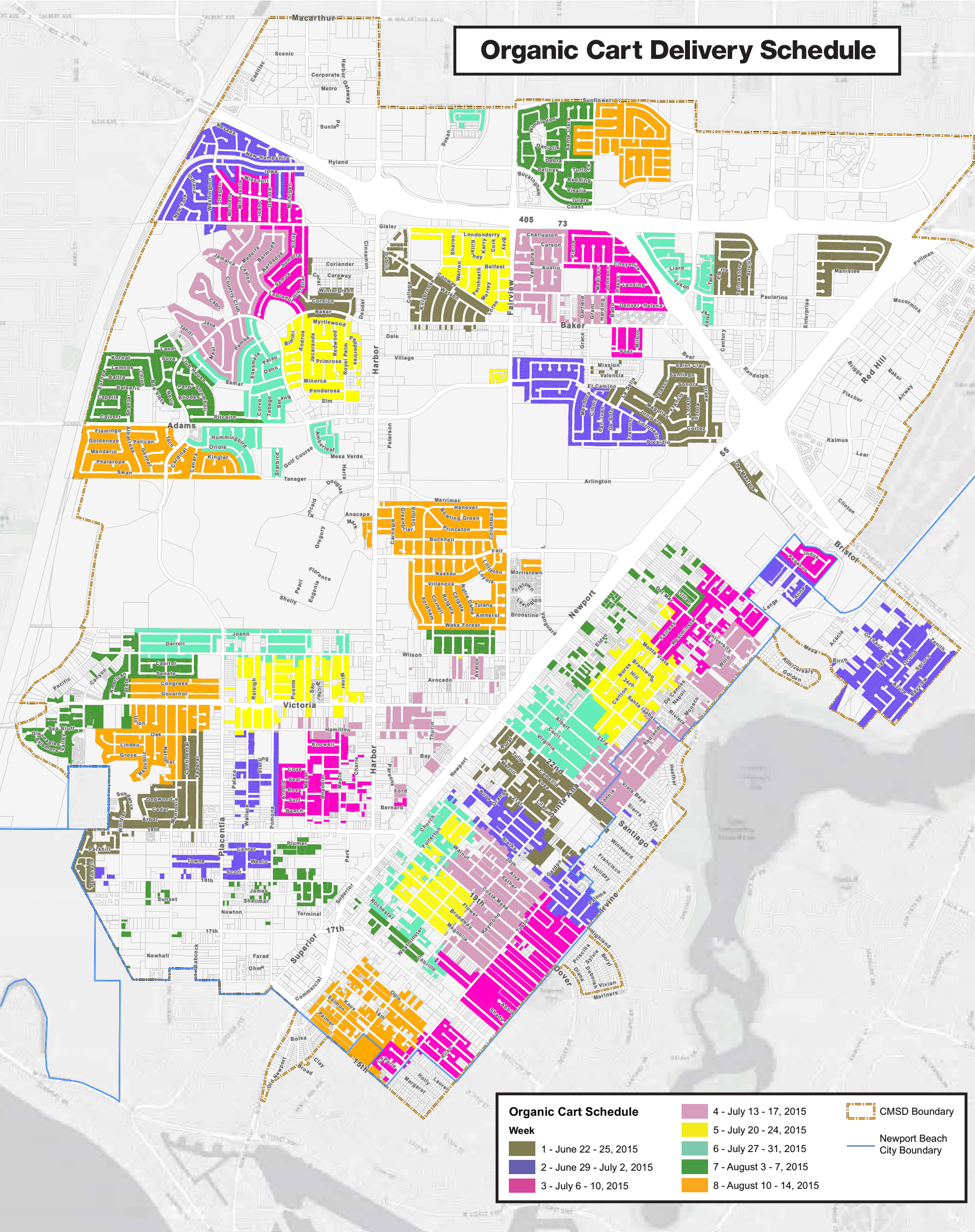
## Holiday cleanup ...

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rechargeable batteries. You will need a charger, but that is a one-time purchase. Once you have that, you'll be able to recharge your batteries and use them over and over, dramatically reducing your battery waste.

However, even rechargeables eventually die. When this happens, or when single-use, disposable batteries die, be sure to recycle them. Harmful chemicals and metals in batteries don't belong in landfills and can be recycled to make new batteries. Batteries are accepted at the Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers.









## Living Soils

Last summer, the Shipley Nature Center in Huntington Beach added a Living Soils exhibit to highlight the importance of soil health for all living things. Easy-to-read panels explain the process of soil creation and maintenance. Visitors learn how to use mulch to keep their own gardens healthy. In our climate, and particularly during our prolonged drought, mulch allows water to percolate into the soil instead of running off



Photo courtesy of Shipley Nature Center

and keeps the roots of plants cool. Organic mulch, such as wood chips or bark, also provides nutrients for the soil as worms, micro-organisms, and the weather break it down. A large window box in the exhibit offers articles on various topics, such as the decline in Monarch butterfly and honeybee populations. Visit Shipley Nature Center's Living Soils exhibit and find out how you can keep your soil healthy and bring life to your yard!

In addition to the Living Soils exhibit, the Shipley Nature Center also provides various other programs to teach visitors about preserving nature. They offer various children's programs throughout the year, including "Inside the Outdoors," a hands-on environmental education program offering activities for different grade levels. Guided tours are available, allowing you to learn about the area's history, diverse habitats and wildlife. The center also has an interpretive center and offers programs on water conservation, native plants, and composting. The center surrounds Blackbird Pond and offers nearly three quarters of a mile of trails through restored California native habitat.

The Shipley Nature Center is located at 17851 Goldenwest Street in Huntington Beach. There is no charge for admission, but donations are welcome. Learn more at <http://shipleynature.org>.

Learn more about creating healthy soils in your own backyard at one of CMSD's free composting workshops. We hold these throughout the year. The District also sells discounted compost and vermicompost bins. For more information, please call us at (949) 645-8400.

## Plenty of paper ripe for recycling

Look around your home or workplace. Check the trash cans and recycling bins. What do you see? Probably a lot of paper! As of 2012, paper and cardboard made up 27.4% of all waste discarded in America's homes, schools, offices, and institutions. By weight, paper and cardboard made up 51.2% of all materials recycled that same year—more recycling than all types of containers, yard trimmings, and food waste combined. In 2013, 63.5% of paper and cardboard products were recycled. The American Forest & Paper Association, a trade association for forest product and paper manufacturers, has set a goal of 70% recovery of all paper and cardboard products by 2020.

In the Costa Mesa Sanitary District, mixed trash and recyclables are picked up by CR&R and sorted at a processing facility. Improve the recovery rate for paper by following these simple guidelines:

- Place mail, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, old homework papers, printer paper, and similar items into a plastic bag before putting them into your cart. This helps keep paper clean and dry.
- Break down your boxes: cracker, cereal, and other food boxes (remove plastic liners); tissue and other product boxes; gift boxes; and corrugated shipping boxes.



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## Did you know?

Every 1,000 tons of collected paper that is processed and remanufactured creates seven jobs.

Source: Susan Kinsella, Environmental Paper Network

## Paper Made!

Are you a crafter? Check out *Paper Made!: 101 Exceptional Projects to Make Out of Everyday Paper* by Kayte Terry. You don't need to buy fancy and expensive art paper to make crafts, such as jewelry, gifts, home decor, desk organizers, or party favors. You can use paper you already have in your house—magazines, shopping bags, candy wrappers, paper towel tubes, wallpaper scraps, and more. If you like the book, you can also follow Kayte Terry on Facebook and Pinterest.



Photo Courtesy of Kayte Terry

## Employee Spotlight



*This quarter we spotlight Javier Ochiqui. Javier has been employed with the District since June of 2012 as Management Analyst. Javier is primarily responsible for the implementation of the Organics Recycling Program that is expected to launch in June of 2015. In addition to his Management Analyst duties, Javier oversees many of the District's solid waste programs and has recently taken over Facilities Management. He supervises the Management Assistant, Maintenance Assistant, and Code Enforcement Officer. He is also responsible for checking development plans to ensure that adequate spacing is available for trash service. Some of Javier's accomplishments include development of the Green Guide, implementation of the Battery Recycling Program, and facilitation of the District's first audit with CR&R.*

*Javier is a member of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), the leading professional association in the solid waste management field. He graduated from UC Riverside, majoring in Liberal Studies, Political Science, and Sociology. He advanced his studies with a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Cal State San Bernardino. He has over 10 years of experience working in the public sector.*

*The Costa Mesa Sanitary District would like to recognize Javier in the Employee Spotlight for this quarter and thank him for a job well done!*

## Visit our Organics Recycling webpage



We understand that our residents might have a few questions about the implementation of the Organics Recycling program. To address these questions, we have updated our website, adding a new section on the Organics Recycling program! Find information about the Anaerobic Digestion facility, current legislation, and program exemptions. You can also view the previous town hall meeting on the website. Please visit the District website at [www.cmsdca.gov](http://www.cmsdca.gov) and click on "Organics Recycling" at the top right.

**We want your suggestions, questions and comments!**

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